

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
and
U. S. Department of Commerce

Neb. Dept. of Agr. & Inspection
Division of Agr'l. Statistics
and
Agricultural Extension Service
of Nebr. College of Agr.

NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Released 4-17-56

Week Ending 4-14-56

WEATHER The week was dry, with seasonable temperatures. Cold, windy weather over-spread the State during the weekend. Light showers occurred over the northwestern and northeastern portions of the State early and again during the middle of the week.

CROPS Most of the wheat made satisfactory progress, due to the moisture received early in the month. Temperatures have been a little too low for best progress and there has been some damage from wind and cutworms. The average condition for the state is slightly less than a week ago. Winter kill was much less than expected, considering the dry weather. Fortunately, the crop had snow covering during January when the temperatures were lower. If sufficient moisture is received, wheat could produce a satisfactory crop.

Temperatures have been too low for oats and barley. About 88% of the oats have been seeded. Surface moisture is ample for germination, but cold weather has retarded the crop. About 73% of the barley has been seeded. Like oats, the crop needs warmer weather. The planting of sugar beets is well advanced. Early preparation of land for corn is in progress.

Alfalfa, wild hay, and pastures are slow, due largely to cool weather and lack of warm spring showers. Some cutworms are reported in alfalfa. Unfavorable conditions for pasture last year and overgrazing has reduced the vitality of grass and this, together with the lack of warm April showers, produces an unfavorable outlook for pasture.

1400 - 4/17/56
Precipitation for the state for the six-month period October to March, inclusive, was 45% of normal. The eastern third of the state had the greatest deficiency, ranging from about 35 to 42% of normal. The central portion was about 44% of normal, while the Panhandle was 61% of normal for the six-month period.

Percentage of normal precipitation by districts for the six-month period are as follows: west, 61%; north-central, 54%; northeast, 42%; central, 44%; east-central, 35%; southwest, 46%; south-central, 43%; southeast, 36%; and State, 45% of normal. March precipitation was the driest since 1882. Only eight counties had stations reporting 70% or above normal precipitation and twenty counties had stations reporting 30% of normal or less.

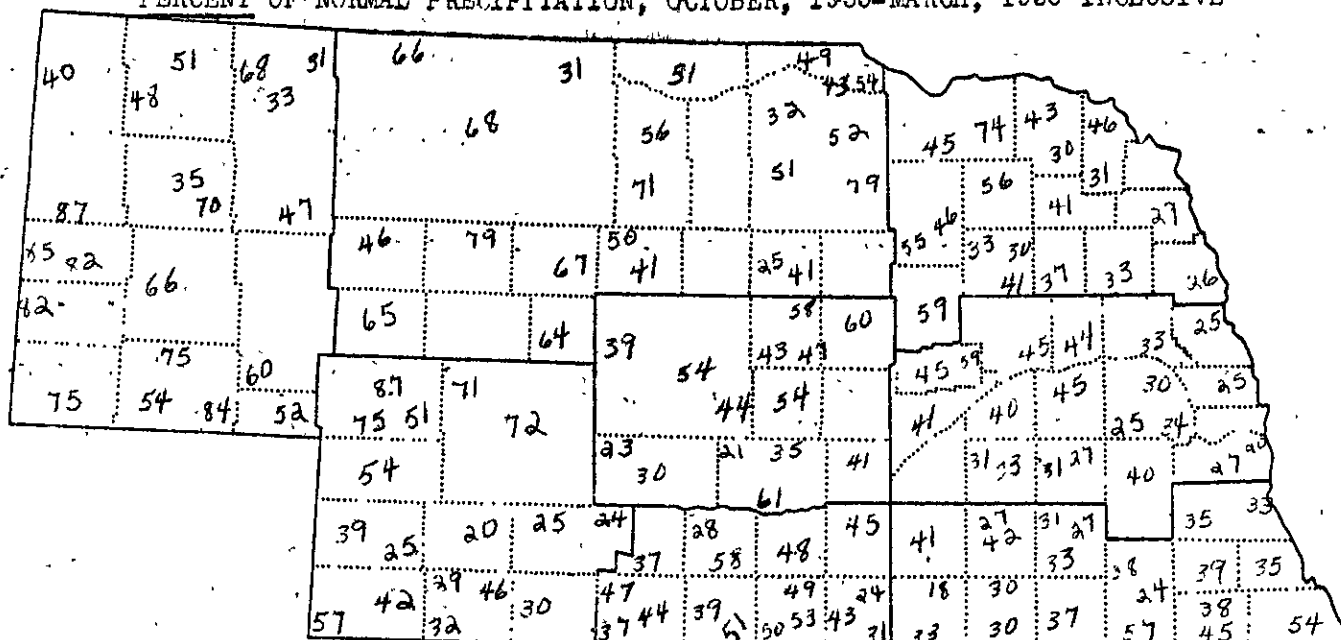
Despite the moisture received in early April, 69% of the counties are reporting short surface moisture and 92% of the counties report a shortage of subsoil moisture. The annual spring subsoil moisture testing of winter wheat fields will be made next week.

LIVESTOCK Some farmers are short of feed for cattle. Cattle have been taken off wheat pasture and there is very little other pasture. Spring lambing is about over. Calving and farrowing is well advanced. Generally, the late winter and spring season has been favorable for calves, pigs, and lambs. Cattle on feed in Nebraska are estimated at 64% of the number a year ago. Iowa has 96%, Illinois, 95% and the three states have 88% of the number on hand a year ago. The nine corn belt states have 91% of the number on feed a year ago.

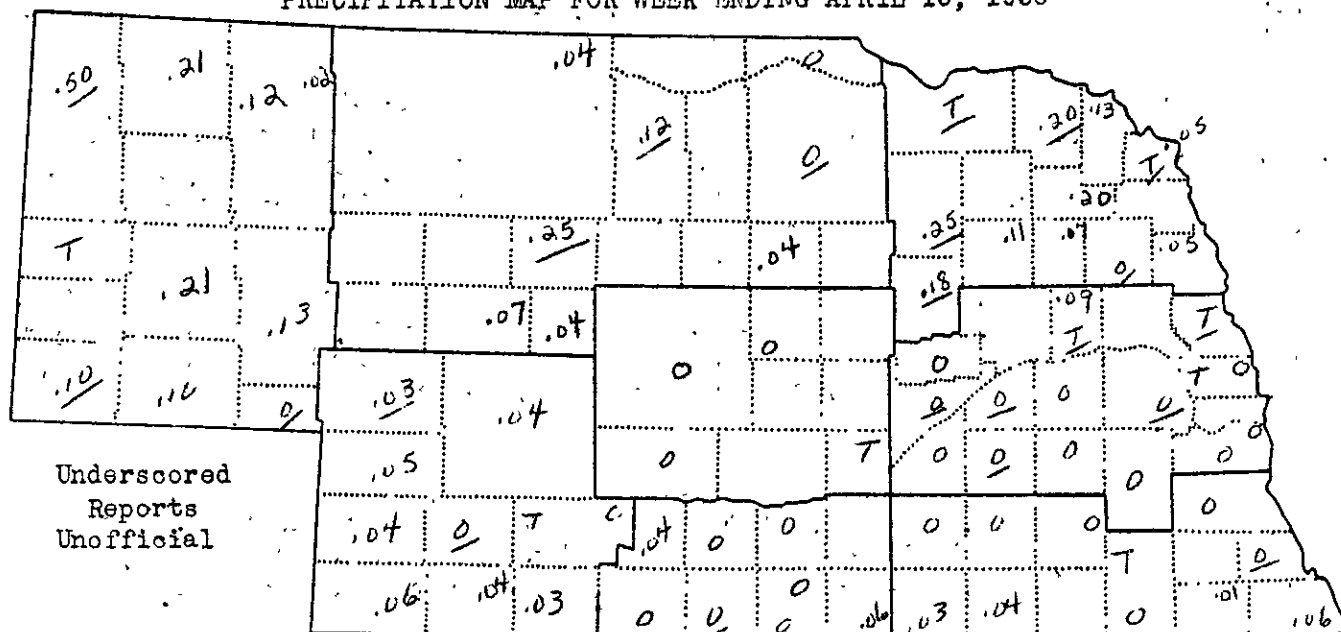
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PERCENT OF NORMAL PRECIPITATION, OCTOBER, 1955-MARCH, 1956 INCLUSIVE



PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 13, 1956



HIGHEST AND LOWEST TEMPERATURES (Highs for 24 hours ending at 12:30 a.m., and lows for 12 hours ending at 6:30 a.m. CST)

		April 10th		11th		12th		13th		14th		15th		16th	
		Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
NW	Chadron	52	24	67	30	46	29	60	34	70	29	60	26	59	30
	Scottsbluff	53	25	68	35	53	31	57	32	72	37	63	26	66	24
	Sidney	49	17	65	29	62	30	53	32	72	39	64	27	65	20
NC	Burwell	45	23	56	29	64	33	50	36	75	33	63	30	50	23
	Valentine	50	19	57	29	52	32	50	38	74	34	61	23	52	22
NE	Norfolk	41	25	56	26	65	33	53	34	71	45	65	31	48	25
	Sioux City	46	27	61	34	68	36	58	32	78	40	65	31	48	29
CEN	Grand Island	40	32	54	30	63	38	52	38	71	40	67	33	50	25
EC	Lincoln	43	39	59	33	66	42	55	39	71	49	72	48	50	29
	Omaha	45	33	59	35	64	35	52	34	71	45	70	32	50	26
SW	Imperial	49	17	60	28	66	30	57	33	74	36	70	28	64	21
	North Platte	48	21	57	29	62	34	55	38	74	34	65	27	58	25

WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 16, 1956

Eastern Division		Central Division		Western Division	
Grand Island	0	Burwell	.04	Chadron	.05
Lincoln	0	North Platte	0	Imperial	0
Norfolk	.11	Valentine	.04	Scottsbluff	0
Omaha	0			Sidney	0
Sioux City	.05				

Precipitation, April 1-13, 1956

	Eastern Div.	Central Div.	Western Div.
Total past week	.03	.01	.08
Total since April 1	.77	.82	.33
Normal since April 1	.95	.83	.73